

A Second

(3.)

LETTER

FROM A

Person of Quality

TO HIS FRIEND,

ABOUT

ABHORRERS and ADDRESSORS, &c.

SIR,

I forgot in my last to mention the ingenuity of Mr. Sanderson in his Address to his Majesty, where he gives himself and Companions a true description and Character, that his Majesty might not be mistaken in them; for they stile themselves Professors of the Study and Practices of the Law; Practices of the Law in the plural number being always taken in the worst sense, for men verst in the wrangling; Chicanery part of it, tricks of the Law, destroying of Charters, skil'd in obsolete Presidents of unjust, slavish, or ignorant Judges, whose Opinions may serve turns for future Ages; they are fit Carriers of such Addresses in a Stile to Hector all the Juries of England out of their Oaths and Duty: If the word *Treason* be in the Indictment, the Jury must find it, or they are called *Abettors*; I would know of those worthy Gentlemen of Somerset and Dorset, and the rest of the *Abhorers*, whether ever they knew or heard of any one man that had abetted, maintained, or subscribed to the Association pretended to be found amongst my Lord of Shaftesburies Papers; if they have, and the matter will bear it, why do they not present them? if they have not, what ground have they for thus Authentically divulging false News, Lyes, and Tales amongst the people, to infer against

the Protestants, as if there was a Design amongst them against the King and Government, and that the Popish Plot was a Fiction to cover another forty one Rebellion; and this address to the King himself, to make him believe ill, and think himself unsafe in the best and loyallest of his Subjects: This is a Crime worthy to be punished by a Parliament in the highest degree; and in the mean time these men ought to be marked out by all honest and unpacket Grand Juries, as disturbers of the Peace of the Government, and Spreaders of false and dangerous News.

Tis plain these men mean and intend by this abhorrence, and under this notion to create an association for all the Tories to mainrayn a Popish Successor, and to introduce Arbitrary Power: And whosoever joynes with or doth not vigorously oppose such practices, is guilty of these designes. It is one thing to resist Authority, 'tis an other to countenance and encourage the Government in the worst of things: Tis every mans duty to shew his dislike and abhorrence (in all Legal manner) of such things as are destructive to our Religion and freedom, and the weight of the Nation would bear things steady, if men would own themselves and their just Sentiments and not basely be afraid to displease when

they

they own God and their Country. As for their pretended draught of an association. I much wonder, since they penned it themselves, that they did not draw it yet more fit to be abhorred.

There being nothing in it to be acted during the Kings life, and it implies his present Majesties leave or connivance, since it is to be done in the whole House, sitting the Parliament, and a matter of this great concern was certain to take up so much time in the debate and finishing, that it was in the Kings hands, whether they should sit on to finish it or no.

That which concerns the Mercenary Forces, is no more then every mans duty. as much as in him lies (which means as lawfully he may) to endeavour intirely to disband all such Mercenary Forces; as we have reason to believe are Raised to advance *Arbitrary Power*. Nay, I will go farther, for I will faithfully promise you to endeavour (as far as lawfully I may) the Disbanding all Domestick Mercenary Forces; with what Domestick Design soever Raised, if it be not to suppress an actual Rebellion: It being with me an infallible Maxim, That no Nation can be free, or enjoy the benefit of their Laws, that have not the Guard of the Government, Prince and Laws in their own hands: If the Prince and Government have a separate Guard from the Body of the People, where is Law and Liberty?

There are several ways of Disbanding these Forces according to Law, and doing no unju-
stifiable Act. As to insist upon it in Parliament, to refuse to quarter them: No man Alehouse-
keeper, or other, is bound to quarter them by

Law: They may be Indicted for a Ryot, and legally dissolved by the Posse if they obey not the Law. But after all this noise and danger of an Association, was it not one of the Expedients offered by the Court-Party in the Lords House the last *Westminster-Parliament*? Was it not the difficulty that the Ministers of State, and Lords House (who were so well satisfied of the Duke of Yorks present power and interest) could not give security to be depended upon; to restrain and oppose that power we feared in him? So that the Association offered was no Expedient, if not put into unsuspected hands. Let me ask you; is it impossible, but that some of the Court-Party might then frame this Expedient, which if you look into it seems very plausible; but is really impracticable to bring the Major-part of the Subscribing Members of Both Houses together, before Orders or Commissions can be given? But since they have taken more Courage, and need no Expedients, nor are obliged to please any more Parliaments; They have turned their own Papers into an Abhorrence; and set it up as a Banner against the poor Protestants.

One thing more is worth your observing in this Association, That the Treason which they pretend, is not to be acted without the Concurrence of so great a Body of the most Eminent and Worthy of the Nobility and Gentry; which can never by any Protestant be suspected of ill Designs against the Kings Person and Government: But however you may see by this Measure how far this *Protestant Plot* was to have extended, if a conscientious, wise, and worthy Jury had not given a stop to the Career.